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NSA review
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DIA and DOS review(s)
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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Tuesday May 25, 1976.

25X1 [REDACTED] The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

USSR

25X1 [REDACTED] Yesterday in Moscow the Soviets told the military attaches of states that signed the Helsinki agreement that an air and ground force exercise involving about 25,000 troops will be held from June 14 to 18 in the Leningrad Military District close to the Finnish border. The announcement was made 21 days in advance--in compliance with the time provision of the Helsinki agreement.

25X1 [REDACTED] This is the second exercise for which the Soviets have given advanced notification since the signing of the Helsinki accord last summer. An exercise in the Transcaucasus Military District was announced in January and observers from Greece, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia were invited. According to the Soviet defense ministry spokesman, observers from selected states will be receiving invitations within the next week for the exercise in June.


25X1 [REDACTED] The maneuvers were announced on Soviet television Sunday evening and an item appeared in *Pravda* yesterday. The *Pravda* article named three cities in the area in which the maneuvers will take place--Petrozavodsk, Vyborg, and Sestroretsk. An army headquarters is located at Petrozavodsk, a motorized rifle division and a corps headquarters are at Vyborg, and a tank division is near Sestroretsk. [REDACTED]

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PHILIPPINES-USSR

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 Philippine President Marcos is scheduled to arrive in Moscow next Monday for a five-day visit. The trip is part of Marcos' effort to broaden the Philippines' foreign relations and markets and end Manila's reputation as a client of the US. He will establish diplomatic relations with the USSR during the visit and sign a trade agreement.

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[redacted] Marcos had intended to visit Moscow late last summer to balance a journey he made last June to Peking, but postponed his trip when Moscow was unwilling to guarantee a meeting with Brezhnev. Marcos places a high value on his visits abroad for strengthening his prestige at home; he expects to meet with Brezhnev and other top Soviet leaders.

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[redacted] // Marcos will also explore Soviet attitudes toward the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. In the last year or so, Soviet propaganda has been more positive about ASEAN, but Moscow echoed Vietnamese accusations at the time of the Bali summit in February that the association is a US-sponsored military alliance.//

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[redacted] // Philippine security officials are apprehensive about the opening of a Soviet mission in Manila. [redacted]

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LEBANON

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[redacted] Fighting broke out in several areas of Lebanon yesterday, but the informal truce generally is holding.

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[redacted] The heaviest clashes occurred in the mountains east of Beirut, where leftist forces apparently tightened their encirclement of the Christian city of Zahlah. Although most areas of Beirut have remained relatively quiet, Christian and leftist gunmen have resumed artillery exchanges in the city's port district.

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[redacted] The renewed fighting will add to pressures on president-elect Sarkis to come up with a formula for negotiations before the de facto cease-fire collapses completely. [redacted]

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PERU-CHILE

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[redacted] //A meeting taking place in Santiago of military chiefs from Peru, Chile, and Bolivia may pave the way for improved relations between Peru and Chile, which were strained again recently by a buildup of Peruvian forces near the Chilean border.//

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[redacted] //The delivery of Soviet tanks and track-mounted antiaircraft weapons to newly constructed bases in southern Peru had raised concern in the Chilean military over Lima's intentions.//

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[redacted] //Chile will welcome measures to prevent accidental border clashes with Peru, but Chilean leaders are likely to continue to view Peru's long-range intentions with suspicion, particularly while Peruvian forces remain heavily concentrated in the south. [redacted]

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ARGENTINA

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[redacted] In line with its policy to reduce government spending, Argentina's military junta is slowing down the country's costly nuclear power program.

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[redacted] The Peronist regime planned to have 2,700 megawatts of nuclear capacity by 1985--the 320-megawatt plant already in operation at Atucha and four 600-megawatt plants. The new schedule calls only for completing the Atucha plant and two of the 600-megawatt plants by that date.

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[redacted] The scaled-down nuclear program will still strain Argentina's precarious finances even though payments will be spread over several years. Costs of the first 600 megawatt power plant, now under construction, have increased from \$450 million to more than \$600 million. Three more such plants would total at least \$1.8 billion.

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[redacted] The expenditure of some \$50 to \$70 million for exploitation of new uranium deposits and at least \$200 million for heavy water facilities would push the cost of the entire program

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to \$2.6 billion. This does not include auxiliary installations planned for the next three to six years. Foreign exchange credits, which could make up one third of the total cost, will increase the already heavy foreign debt load. [redacted]

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GREECE

25X1 [redacted] The Greek government yesterday tried to break up a 48-hour strike called by militant trade unionists to prevent the passage by parliament of a new labor law.

25X1 [redacted] Government spokesmen condemned the strike, charging that it undermined democracy by creating a climate of anarchy. Communications and air transport workers were conscripted to reduce the impact of the walkout. Police banned a planned march by protesters in Athens.

25X1 [redacted] The strike is the first major labor unrest since Greece returned to democratic government in 1974. It was called by leftist-dominated unions backed by the opposition parties to protest provisions in the new bill prohibiting political and wildcat strikes. The principal Greek labor confederation urged its members to ignore the strike, but at least a hundred thousand workers walked off the job.

25X1 [redacted] At the confederation's request, the government had earlier modified some of the provisions in the bill that are aimed at deterring the type of leftist-inspired labor unrest that sparked the military intervention in 1967. [redacted]

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USSR-CZECHOSLOVAKIA

25X1 [redacted] A Soviet air force regiment in Czechoslovakia has begun to receive MIG-23s. [redacted]

[redacted] on Saturday the US defense attache saw two of the combat-training version of the aircraft land at Milovice airfield northeast of Prague.

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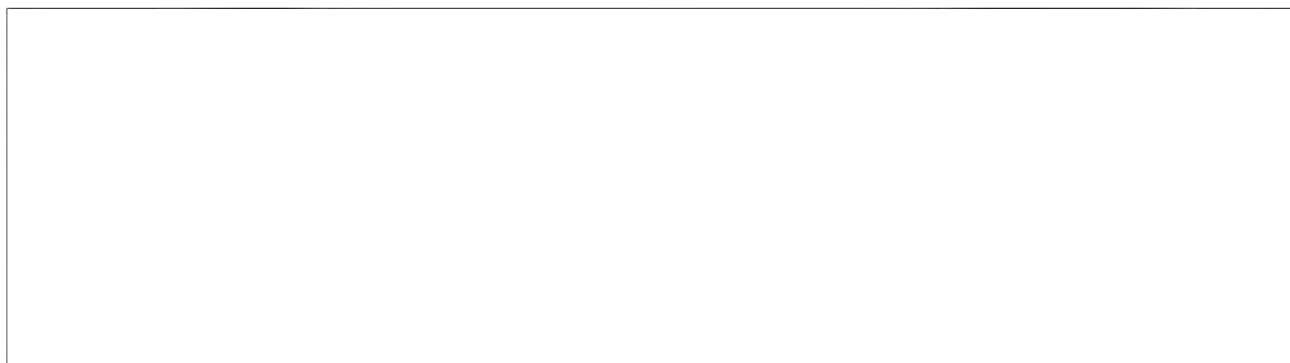
[redacted] Delivery of the MIG-23 probably began in April [redacted]

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FTAI

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[redacted] France will attempt to use a conference, scheduled to begin in Paris today, to convince rival political groups in the French Territory of the Afars and Issas to form a coalition government. Chances of success are slim.

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[redacted] The French hope an accommodation will improve the territory's chances of a peaceful transition to independence. Paris has indicated it plans to hold a referendum on the independence question this year, with independence probably coming in early 1977.

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[redacted] When Paris announced last December that it would grant independence to the FTAI, France hoped to transfer power to Ali Aref Bourhan, the pro-French head of the territorial government. Aref's declining political fortunes--he has only a bare majority in the local assembly--and the growing strength of the opposition African People's Independence League have forced France to revise its policy.

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[redacted] France can now expect little cooperation from either Aref or the League. Aref is bitter because the French are no longer willing to give him their complete support. The League representatives are sure to press their advantage and demand that Paris abandon Aref and recognize the League as the legitimate representative of the territory.

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[redacted] Paris probably views a coalition as a way of allowing France quietly to cut its ties to Aref without abruptly abandoning him. The French have probably concluded that it is only a matter of time before the League achieves power in the FTAI.

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[redacted] These developments are likely to facilitate Somalia's annexation of the territory. Although League president Hassan Gouled is regarded as a nationalist who favors independence for the territory, he has accepted Somali support and is cooperating with the Front for the Liberation of the Somali Coast, which is based in and controlled by Somalia.

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[redacted] The French say they have invited the Front to attend the Paris conference, but the Front says it has not received an invitation and that the talks cannot succeed without its participation.

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[redacted] Distrust between Ethiopia and France also benefits Somalia. Addis Ababa had hoped to work closely with Paris to prevent Somalia from gaining control of the territory.

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[redacted] For its part, Paris appears to have written off Addis Ababa as a source of support for an independent FTAI because Ethiopia is preoccupied with domestic strife.

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[redacted] The chances that the Organization of African Unity will provide guarantees for the FTAI's territorial integrity after it becomes independent also appear slim. The Egyptian chairman of an OAU fact-finding committee that visited Ethiopia, Somalia, and the FTAI in late April and early May recently indicated to US embassy officers in Cairo that the mission is unlikely to propose OAU guarantees or any OAU action on the FTAI issue.

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[redacted] The Egyptian official said the committee found Somalia's position "unbending." Somalia refused to give a unilateral guarantee of the FTAI's integrity on the grounds that an OAU or UN commitment would be sufficiently binding on Somalia. The official also said that the Arab League is deferring to the OAU on the FTAI question.

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